THE STANDARDS FORUM

September 2002
Volume 10, Issue 2

Your publication for news about the DOE Technical Standards Program

Inside this issue:

A Status of the Technical Standards Program—An Interview with Richard Black

Richard Black is the director of the Office of Nuclear and Facility Safety Policy, in the Office of Environment, Safety and Health. He was formerly the director of the Office of Nuclear Safety Enforcement. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in 1992, Mr. Black was a nuclear regulation consultant at TENERA L.P., an attorney at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), and an attorney with the Internal Revenue Service.

Recently, Mr. Black took time to respond to some questions from the Technical Standards Program Office (TSPO) regarding the status of and "path forward" for the DOE Technical Standards Program (TSP). His comments tell of the challenges facing the program and the entire DOE standards community.

TSPO: How did you become involved in the Technical Standards Program?

Black: I became involved in the TSP by virtue of my job as director of the Office of Nuclear and Facility Safety Policy. This office has responsibility for funding and managing the TSP. As Director of the Office, I also was designated the DOE Standards Executive. In that function, I represent DOE's interests on standards before the Inter-

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The Standards' Professional: The Employee You Didn't Know You Needed

By Clyde Camp
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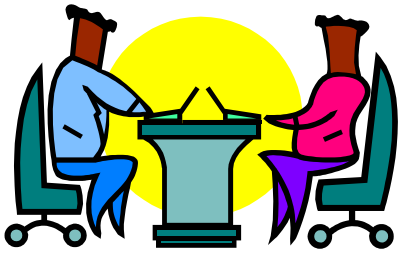

While most companies today have a specific individual, perhaps even an entire organization, who is responsible for corporate objectives and oversight in quality, environmental issues, and safety, there seems to be a stigma attached to the same level of oversight for standards. In fact, most companies, though they may have dozens or even hundreds of employees participating in the standards community, still perceive "standards stuff" to be simply a technical contribution rather than the fundamental business issue it really is.

In reality, standards are a complicated issue in today's global economy and should be addressed as part of the company's strategic plan. Yes, participation in technical

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The Technical Standards Program Office at Oak Ridge National Laboratory has moved. Our new address is:

1060 Commerce Park
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37831-6487

Please send all standards-related documents to this address.

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agency Committee on Standards Policy (ICSP), chaired by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

"We develop many technical standards in diverse areas from nuclear energy to electrical energy efficiency. We also work in highly complex and hazardous work environments that demand strict adherence to safety standards."

TSPO: How do DOE employees and contractors benefit from the TSP?

Black: There are several important benefits. First, DOE is recognized throughout the world as a leader in science and technology. We develop many technical standards in diverse areas from nuclear energy to electrical energy efficiency. We also work in highly complex and hazardous work environments that demand strict adherence to safety standards. The TSP provides a system and a structure to develop and obtain consensus on the technical standards developed by DOE and its contractors that are used throughout the world. Second, the TSP provides a system to obtain information on the many national and international consensus standards that can be adopted for use within DOE. The appropriate adoption of these non-government standards is not only consistent with federal law, but it also provides a way to enhance safe and effective operations for DOE activities. Third, the TSP provides a forum to exchange ideas and information on the many standards-related activities that are important to DOE. For example, the TSP provides much useful information on standards so that DOE interests can be represented before the ICSP. Also, the TSP provides a mechanism to obtain standards information that is useful to Congress and other government agencies so that U.S. interests on standards are represented and protected in national and international markets.

TSPO: What are the greatest strengths and weaknesses of the TSP?

Black: There are two strengths of the TSP—the program itself and the people who are involved. I think they are interrelated. The program is strong because it has an important mission—the coordination and the integration of the many standards activities that are conducted by DOE and contractor personnel. The people are the backbone of the program. They believe in the vision and the mission of the TSP. They recognize the importance in the development, adop-

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standards committees is important. But the other side of the coin is strategic involvement in the management organizations and boards that run the technical committees.

The standards professional is an individual whose primary job function is to work on the management committees of both domestic and international standards developing organizations (SDOs). Rather than working on near-term technical issues such as size or weight or processing speed, he is involved with long-term management decisions such as "What standards are appropriate?," "Who will create them?" and "What policies and procedures must be followed?" Negotiating the correct answers to these and other management and policy questions enables the work of the technical participants to flow more smoothly, thereby raising the return on investment of their own participation and their value to the company and global industry.

Why Does an Enterprise Need a Standards Professional?

With or without U.S. participation, international standards are increasingly being used today as components of international trade. U.S. industry, which 25 years ago was a clear leader in the development of international standards, is continuing to discover that it is no longer the de facto standards generator it once was. As the world's economic climate changes, multinational agreements such as those incorporated into the European Free Trade Agreement and the North American Free Trade Agreement are making proactive managed participation in both national and international standards a necessity rather than a nicety. As a result, many more U.S. companies are making the transition from simply using standards developed by others to actively participating in management and technical standards activities that directly affect them.

However this participation is too often conducted in a haphazard fashion. Employees may be told by their supervisors to participate in a technical or management committee that they are ill equipped to handle—either by training or personality. Often employees will take it upon themselves to try to participate out of enlightened self interest but find that their supervisors don't understand the amount of time and travel required. Their standards participation is treated as an extra-curricular activity on top of their "real jobs." Both of these and other similar situations point to a lack of understanding by management as to the strategic nature of standards participation.

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tion, and use of standards that fit the work and enhance operations. The weakness of the TSP is the declining resources, both time and money, that can be applied to support its activities. The lack of resources hinders the important function of the TSP to coordinate and promote standard-related activities across the complex. Lack of money also inhibits both DOE and contractor personnel from fully participating in standards activities—both inside and outside the complex.

"The program is strong because it has an important mission—the coordination and the integration of the many standards activities that are conducted by DOE and contractor personnel. The people are the backbone of the program. They believe in the vision and the mission of the TSP. "

TSPO: What do you feel are the challenges facing the TSP?

Black: Certainly lack of resources is the biggest challenge for the reasons mentioned above. I testified before a Congressional Subcommittee two years ago, along with the Standards Executive of the Department of Defense, about how the declining budgets are adversely affecting standards activities. We believe that the declining budgets hinder our ability to participate in standards-setting organizations. If, for example, DOE and contractor personnel cannot participate in international standards-setting organizations, it may mean that U.S. interests are not fully represented or protected. This, in turn, may have an adverse affect on the ability of U.S. industry to compete in world markets. Also, if we don't have the time or money to participate in national standards activities, we may hinder our ability to adopt and use those standards if they are published.

Another challenge is to better "package and market" the importance of the TSP. While those of us who participate in TSP activities understand the importance of them, we don't do a good job of passing that information to those in management who are responsible for decisions on resources and the priority of our time. While budget reductions, both federal and contractor, are a continuing reality, we must all do a better job of convincing management that these activities are important for safety, economical, and operational reasons. We should also convince management that some standards-related activities are important to national security. I co-hosted a business roundtable in China in June on the future development of nuclear power plants in China. I convinced my management that if China was going to develop nuclear power plants in the future, the U.S. government had a legitimate interest in ensuring that they were safe and secure through the adoption of U.S. nuclear standards. The other U.S. government and industry representatives at the roundtable thought I made a convincing presentation to the Chinese on the importance of U.S. nuclear standards and how DOE played a major development role in those standards. Prior to my presentation, the Chinese were not aware of the federal policy and law that requires the U.S. government to develop and use national consensus standards.

TSPO: What do you think should be the future direction of the TSP?

Black: Obviously, we have to do more with less within DOE. This requires better use of the topical committees to develop standards. Through more effective use of topical committees we can get better synergy and focus. We also must better coordinate our TSP activities outside of DOE. I think better integration and coordination with similar federal agencies such as DoD, NRC, and NIST on standards activities is necessary to avoid duplication of effort and reach agreement on a "U.S. position" on standards. For example, since 9/11 there is a flurry of activity to develop standards on national security and on methodologies to assess risk. Many standards-setting organizations are beginning or ramping up efforts to develop risk-based approaches to assess and defend hazardous activities. We should coordinate our activities with those of other federal agencies that have an interest in these future standards.

Lastly, I am concerned about the pending retirement of many safety and technical professionals within DOE and its contractors. Also, resource limitations cause personnel to shift to other activities and jobs. That knowledge and expertise must be preserved and passed on to new professionals. Consensus standards are a way to preserve knowledge, but they won't be enough. The TSP should take a leading role in succession planning. This might include mentoring standards for the developmental training of new safety/technical professionals and tools for knowledge management. The torch must be passed effectively and efficiently, and we must plan for it now.

Are There Too Many New Standards?

Recently, I had the opportunity to discuss the DOE Technical Standards Program (TSP) with two senior managers. I had offered to demonstrate the service features of the TSP. After a while, it became clear that their interest was not the TSP in general, but rather their concern (i.e., their perception) that the TSP generates too many standards, and that it does not control the generation of DOE Technical Standards. They believed that many DOE Technical Standards were duplicating existing voluntary consensus standards (VCSs), were not needed, or were not technically justified. They used as an example the "science and engineering" series of DOE Fundamental Handbooks (i.e., the DOE-HDBK-1010-92 through DOE-HDBK-1019-92 series), which were produced more than 10 years ago to support nuclear operator training across DOE.

While I wasn't really surprised to hear this (it's a non-sequitor to the "too many orders" problem), I did take umbrage at such an inaccurate assessment. I asked each manager to estimate how many DOE Technical Standards (i.e., DOE Standards, Handbooks, and Specifications) are generated through the TSP each year. One manager guessed as many as 100, and the other, noting my smirk and sensing the underlying intent of my query, guessed around 10 or 12. I told them that they were both a bit off—the TSP, on the average, generates only about five or six new standards each year, and these are in response to technical needs (e.g., beryllium program) or management commitments (e.g., Integrated Safety Management [ISM]). So, DOE doesn't generate a plethora (or even half a plethora!) of home grown standards.

The TSP does keep busy however—there are from 50 to 75 TSP projects each year that reflect efforts by the standards owners (i.e., the Preparing Activity) to update and revise the standards under their responsibility. Most of these standards are owned by EH, DP, and EM. Further, each of our approximately 175 existing DOE Standards must be reviewed for continuation or cancellation every five years. Because many nuclear safety standards were originated in the early- and mid-1990's (as a result of Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board [DNFSB] Recommendation 91-1), we have seen a bulge of activity on revisions in recent times. We also have several projects working with Standards Development Organizations (SDOs) to convert DOE Standards to VCSs, projects to adopt VCSs for DOE use, and projects to work with SDOs to generate new VCSs useful to DOE. DOE Standards are updated in several formal ways—by Revision, Change Notice, Reaffirmation, Reaffirmation with Errata, Inactive for New Design, Cancellation, and Reinstatement Notice.

"The TSP does keep busy however—there are from 50 to 75 TSP projects each year that reflect efforts by the standards owners (i.e., the Preparing Activity) to update and revise the standards under their responsibility."

Does the TSP support the use of VCSs across DOE? You bet we do! DOE tracks and supports the participation of DOE staff (both Federal and contractor) working with SDOs on behalf of DOE. In the last published report to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) (for 2000), DOE had 676 personnel working with 59 SDOs on 1,384 activities! Further, the TSP has chartered 26 DOE Topical Committees (TCs) to work with SDOs and represent DOE interests. This includes areas such as quality assurance (QA), fire protection, lab accreditation, metrology, meteorology, and HEPA filters. (See the TSP Web site for a list of DOE TCs.)

The DOE TSP does not generate a lot of new Standards because, by procedure, we screen each new proposed project for need, and we search VCSs to find existing standards that can do the job for us. Each proposed DOE Standard must be originated as a TSP Project that goes through that organization's designated Technical Standards Manager (TSM), and it must be screened for need and approved by an SES-level manager. So, each organization gets a shot right away to head off unnecessary projects. Next, a draft Standard is posted for comment, which is another way to indicate a Standard may not be needed or to introduce alternatives. Because EH, DP, and EM are the primary standards generators and they participate in the commenting process, they can control their own activities to a large extent! The organizational TSM or the TSP Office can help in this screening.

The TSP operates under a set of TSP Procedures (TSPPs) that establish the TSP business processes. These TSPPs are developed and approved by a DOE-wide TSM Committee (TSMC), and they reflect DOE business needs, as well as efficient and effective ways to do business. By TSPP, any new projects and draft Standards are announced to all TSMs, a Project Registration notice is distributed, and the monthly Project Registration List (available on the TSP Web site) is updated. New Projects are also noticed in the monthly publication, *Standards Actions* (also available on the TSP Web site and distributed to TSMs). Projects that undergo the coordination process (TSPP-6) are subject to review,

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The basic strategic decision a company must make is whether it wants to follow standards or lead the standards- making activity in a particular area. Either decision is acceptable, as long as it is explicitly made. The Competitor's Creed provides an allegorical model for any company's stance with respect to standards.

But in either case, the company needs to take proactive action in the form of Strategic Standards Management (SSM)[1] to manage its standards activities rather than let them happen in an ad hoc fashion. SSM is a complex and ongoing process, but it has six basic steps:

1. IDENTIFY the standards development efforts that affect your company's businesses as early as possible.
2. TRACK and monitor the progress of proposed technical standards on which your products depend.
3. PLAN for strategic representation on key technical and management committees.
4. DRIVE the standards development process to reflect your business interests.
5. ADOPT standards that are consistent with your business directions and integrate them as appropriate into your products and processes.
6. MAINTAIN a consistent and effective corporate presence in the standards arena—this will help with step one.

To effectively accomplish this, the company must address its standards involvement in two areas.

"The standards professional is an individual whose primary job function is to work on the management committees of both domestic and international standards developing organizations (SDOs). "

First, the company must internally manage its employees' involvement in standards activities. This is true whether the company wants to be a leader or a follower. In either case the company must be aware of what is going on in the standards arena within its field of expertise.

If a company decides to simply follow standards developed by others, then "time to market" becomes a driver. Companies today cannot simply wait for a new standard to come out in order to begin building to it. They must, by virtue of some sort of limited participation, be ready to go as soon as relevant new standards are approved.

Because technical participation generally yields direct and measurable progress that can be tied to a company's financials in the short term, it is relatively easily justified.

The second area of SSM is more difficult to evaluate and justify, but it is crucial for those companies wishing to take on a leadership role in the standards making process. This is where the need for a standards professional becomes apparent. To be a leader, corporate management must make the long-term commitment in time and resources to participate in the management processes of the standards community as well as simply the technical committees. And because of the way the global standards community is structured, it may take years to build the relationships necessary to place desired people in key management positions. It will also take effort to build the network within the company to develop corporate positions on issues.

Equally crucial is the consideration of what impact participation will have on a company's patent portfolio. Participation in industry committees raises numerous legal issues and potential antitrust risks. By definition, an "industry committee" is any group, formal or informal, of any size in which employees meet to discuss technical, operational, legal, and regulatory matters with others in the same industry—including competitors and potential competitors. As a result, industry committees are by their nature combinations of competitors—meeting one element of a possible antitrust violation as defined in the Sherman Act and the Federal Trade Commission Act. While open standards committees are generally seen as exempt from these acts, they do pose a risk if the participants are not aware of the potential dangers. Companies and participants must be aware of the consequences of improper activity in order to avoid legal entanglements. Participant and management training therefore becomes an important part of SSM.

What Are the Characteristics and Functions of a Standards Professional?

How companies organize their standards activities to address SSM varies widely from tightly centralized control to no control at all. This is largely dependent on the history and culture of the organization and to a lesser extent on the industry it supports. But regardless of the organizational structure, the two basic management functions of SSM (internal standards oversight and long term strategic commitment) are made significantly easier to implement if the company has a dedicated individual or two responsible for corporate level concerns in the area of standards: the standards professional.

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[1] See "Standards Management and Texas Instruments," *ASTM Standardization News,* December 1997, or **http://www.crcamp.com/ssm.htm** for further information on Strategic Standards Management.

> **"Companies today cannot simply wait for a new standard to come out in order to begin building to it. They must, by virtue of some sort of limited participation, be ready to go as soon as relevant new standards are approved. "**

The Standards' Professional . . . (Continued from page 5)

The ideal standards professional understands his company's strategic goals; operates at a high enough level within the company to have the ear of upper management and to influence changes that need to be made; understands the processes, inter-relationships, and politics of the global standards industry; has a broad range of experience in both domestic and international standards activities; is honestly interested in improving the process by which standards are developed and used in a global environment. And, of course, he leaps tall buildings in a single bound.

He serves as a conduit of information from relevant standards organizations to the various business sectors within the company. He must be willing to spend a lot of time traveling and have the management backing and resources to do so; this is not a job that can be done from behind a desk.

How does one attain this position? Unfortunately, it's not often in personnel job descriptions. The general path is an evolutionary one beginning with technical committee work directly involved with the employee's "real job," and then accepting increasingly responsible officer positions in technical committees, standards organizations, and delegations. At some point, as the level of effort in standards work increases, the employee will have to sit down with his management and alter his formal job description. A draft template for a job description can be at the following Web site: **http://www.crcamp.com/standards/jobtemplate.htm**.

Moving from Technical Participant to Standards Professional

As technical standards participants begin to evolve into standards professionals, it is incumbent upon them to make sure that the visibility attained for their efforts is positive. One immediately obvious way is to work with other employees in a similar situation to optimize interaction with external organizations for reasons of membership, corporate presence, formalizing who's working on what, paying dues, etc. This can be done by creating what might be called a Virtual Standards Office (VSO).

The VSO provides the company with a consistent address for standards-related billing, interaction, faxes, corporate inquiries, notices of awards, etc. How the VSO is managed inside the company is irrelevant as long as the consistent external viewpoint is maintained. It could reside as part of a larger corporate office such as Legal or Licensing or Corporate Research. It could also be "owned" by a product division, although this tends to provide insufficient protection against near-term product-related constraints and budget issues. Although informal at first, the VSO may eventually evolve into a true standards office.

Conclusion

There is no formal training or job description for what I've termed the standards professional. But from the company's perspective, the standards professional should have four objectives:

1. To utilize the standards community and existing standards to develop and market new products in a global economy.
2. To create new standards that benefit industry (including his company) and the end consumer.
3. To create new market spaces and enlarge existing ones.
4. To work in a proactive manner to improve the process by which standards are developed and how they are used to benefit consumers in international trade.

The existence, enthusiasm, experience, and willing participation of standards professionals is what makes the voluntary standards community so robust. Global industry needs more of these people—so maybe it's time for you and your company to become more involved.

About the author: Clyde Camp holds a BSEE and MS in Computer Science. For the last 20 years he has been heavily involved in corporate, national and international standards activities while consulting with industry and government on Strategic Standards Management. He holds numerous positions on various ISO Technical Advisory Groups, the IEEE Standards Association and the International Committee on Information Technology Standards.

Welcome Aboard the TSMC!

The Technical Standards Managers (TSMs) are the backbone of the DOE Technical Standards Program!

These knowledgeable individuals serve as their organization's standards point of contact and contribute to the coordination of Department-wide TSP activities. A great deal of their work time is spent in assuring that standards activities take place in a manner that will promote safe, economical, and efficient operations locally and across the DOE complex.

With nearly 90 active and mobile people involved in TSM activities, it can be a daunting task just to keep up with the retirements and reassignments affecting the TSM roster. This "Welcome Aboard" feature is designed to introduce you to the new TSMs and help you keep abreast of the rapidly changing make-up of the Technical Standards Managers' Committee (TSMC).

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comment, and comment resolution (TSPP-7). TSPP-9 (Maintenance) provides the processes for revising or reaffirming (et al.) a DOE Standard. These TSPPs provide a documented and structured means to either advance or curtail DOE Standards development.

Some Standards outlive their usefulness or technical value before they reach a review point. Some DOE Standards generated early in the TSP history have outlived their functionality. To ensure these Standards can be treated as needed (in addition to the required five-year cyclic review of each DOE Standard), we conduct an annual query to identify unused, outdated, and other active DOE Standards for recommendations of cancellation or continuation. For instance, during last year's review, we found that some quarters of DOE deemed the Fundamentals Handbooks as obsolete and redundant and "counter-VCS;" but some DOE training organizations and DOE staff participating in the DOE Technical Qualification Program strongly supported them. The program decision was to retain the '92 Handbooks as long as they required no further resource investment to maintain them. Otherwise, there are plenty of equivalent (albeit unconsolidated) sources of fundamentals information in textbooks. Each year, the cancellations resulting from this review generally offset the number of new standards developed. By the way, cancelled DOE Standards are reposted to the TSP Archives, where they can still be accessed!

Another point to consider with a new DOE Standards project is that DOE Standards are not mandatory. Many are provided as best practices or, in the nuclear safety arena, as acceptable means to meet requirements (e.g., nuclear criticality, safety analysis, facility safety); equivalent alternatives are allowed. In producing a new DOE Standard, you should be addressing a need related to DOE's missions and functions—improving the business case, technical knowledge, or safety basis for DOE activities. In producing a limited-use DOE Standard, there must be a strong return on investment for your effort as a minimum!

In summary, the generation of new DOE Standards is controlled through TSP Procedures—by screening, by management intervention, by comment and comment resolution, and by cyclic reviews. Each organization has ample opportunities to assess the value and need for proposed new DOE Standards. Very few new DOE Standards are generated. Older and less useful standards are cancelled or replaced through structured review processes. Also, the DOE TSP actively promotes the use of VCSs in lieu of generating new DOE Standards through its structure of TSMs supporting each major organization, DOE-wide TCs participating with SDOs, and active support of individual participation with SDOs on behalf of DOE. I hope I have provided enough background to make the two managers happy—the opportunity to control the perceived plethora of standards has been with them all along.

—Rick Serbu

DOE Consolidates Mailing Addresses

Effective August 5, 2002, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) began redirecting all U.S. mail to the Washington, D.C. address. In the continuing effort to provide the best possible protection against threats that target the mail stream, this address change is deemed to be necessary. The current Germantown zip code falls outside the range in which the U.S. Postal Service irradiates mail. Therefore, DOE requests your assistance in addressing all Headquarters mail to the Department's Washington, D.C. address to assure irradiation and/or inspection by the U.S. Postal Service. DOE does not anticipate any delays in delivery due to this change.

The Technical Standards Program manager's address would be as follows:

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THE STANDARDS FORUM

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Distribution: *The Standards Forum* is an electronic newsletter available from the TSP Web Site (**http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/**). To update your mailing and e-mail addresses, please contact Amy Bush, ORNL, 865-576-2395, Fax 865-574-8481 **bushar@ornl.gov**.

Comments: If you have any questions or comments please contact Rick Serbu, EH-53, 301-903-2856, **Richard.Serbu@eh.doe.gov**. If you have any questions or comments on DOE Technical Standards projects, please call Don Williams, ORNL, 865-574-8710, **williamsdljr@ornl.gov**.

Publication: ORNL and DOE's ES&H Technical Information Services posts *The Standards Forum* quarterly for the DOE Technical Standards Program at **http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/**.

Standards Actions

September 2002

Standards Actions

DOE Technical Standards Program Document Status

08-30-2002

Activity Summary

In Conversion—4

In Preparation—44

Out for Comment—16

Published this Month—2

5-year Review Status

Revision in Progress—11

Reaffirmation in Progress—10

Cancellation Pending—7

Cancellation in Progress—1

No Current Action—19

Inside this issue:

DOE Technical Standards Project Initiated

If you have any questions or are interested in participating in the development of this standard, please contact the representative listed below. Complete listings of all DOE Technical Standards projects and their status are given on the Technical Standards Program (TSP) Web Site (**http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/**). To access these lists from the home page, click on DOE Technical Standards, then click on Projects in the left-hand frame to show the links to the project lists.

The following DOE Technical Standards project was recently initiated:

- *Destructive Assay Methods Compendium*, Project Number: SANS-0001; Project Contact: Kimberly Johnson-Miller, New Brunswick Laboratory, 630-252-4334, Fax: 630-252-6256; **Kimberly.Johnson-Miller@ch.doe.gov**.

DOE Technical Standard Recently Sent for Coordination

The appropriate Technical Standards Managers (TSMs) will request specific reviewers to comment on this draft. The full text of the document is available on the TSP Web Site. If you wish to comment on this document, please notify your TSM.

The following draft DOE Technical Standards were recently distributed for coordination.

- *Environmental Restoration Functional Area Qualification Standard*, Project Number: TRNG-0027; Joseph Arango, U.S. Department of Energy, EM-5; 202-586-7599, **Joseph.Arango@em.doe.gov**. Comments are due October 16, 2002.

Published DOE Technical Standards

The following DOE Technical Standards were recently printed and posted on the TSP Web Site:

- DOE-HDBK-1139/2-02, *Chemical Management*, Volume 2, July 2002. Note: Volume 1 was published and posted in November 2000.
- DOE-STD-1153-2002, *A Graded Approach for Evaluating Radiation Doses to Aquatic and Terrestrial Biota*, July 2002.

DOE employees and DOE contractors may obtain copies from the ES&H Technical Information Services, U.S. Department of Energy; 1-800-473-4375, Fax 301-903-9823.

Subcontractors and the general public may obtain copies from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Technology Administration, National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161; 703-605-6000, Fax 703-605-6900.

Copies of DOE Technical Standards (i.e., DOE Standards, Specifications, Handbooks, and Technical Standards Lists) are also available on the TSP Web Site.

Non-Government Standards

American National Standards Institute

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) publishes coordination activities of non-Government standards (NGS) biweekly in *ANSI Standards Action.* Recent electronic copies (no hardcopies are produced) are available on the ANSI Web site at **http://web.ansi.org/rooms/room_14/**. Electronic back copies are available to ANSI members only. For information on site membership, ask your local ANSI contact. For information on individual or group ANSI membership, contact Susan Bose at 212-642-4948 or **sbose@ansi.org**.

Hardcopy versions of published non-Government standards listed in this section may be obtained from Global Engineering Documents, 15 Inverness Way East, Englewood, Colorado, 80112, 800-854-7179, Fax 303-397-2740, **global@ihs.com**, **http://global.ihs.com**. Electronic delivery of selected documents is available through ANSI at **http://webstore.ansi.org**. Copies of the listed draft standards and the procedure for commenting on them may be obtained by contacting the standards developing organization.

The following listings are extracted from *ANSI Standards Action* and are representative of NGS development activities that may be relevant to DOE operations. Refer to *ANSI Standards Action* for a more extensive listing of changes and new publications, standards developing organizations, and additional information about submitting comments. Additional information on ANSI activities and available non-Government standards can be found on the ANSI Web site, **http://www.ansi.org**, or through the National Standards System Network, **http://www.nssn.org**.

The following American National Standards are currently in coordination (comment due dates follow each entry)**:**

- ASME N278.1-200x, *Self-Operated and Power Operated Safety-Related Valves Functional Specification Standard* (new standard) – October 15, 2002.
- ANS 2.2-200x, *Earthquake Instrumentation Criteria for Nuclear Power Plants* (new standard) – October 7, 2002.
- AWWA C653-200x, *Disinfection of Water Treatment Plants* (revision of ANSI/AWWA C653-1997) – October 8, 2002.
- NEMA FB-11-200x, *Plugs, Receptacles, and Connectors of the Pin and Sleeve Type for Hazardous Locations* (new standard) – October 7, 2002.
- NSF 53 (i9)-200x, *Drinking Water Treatment Units - Health Effects* (revision of ANSI/NSF 53-2002) – October 7, 2002.

The following American National Standards have been approved for publication (Publication is to take place within six months following the date shown. Publication status and ordering information may be obtained from ANSI's Customer Service at 212-642-4900.)**:**

- ANSI C29.1-1988 (R2002), *Test Methods for Electrical Power Insulators* (reaffirmation of ANSI C29.1-1988 (R1996)) – August 15, 2002.
- ANSI/ANS 58.9-1987 (R2002), *Application of the Single Failure Criterion for Light Water Reactor Safety-Related Fluid Systems* (reaffirmation of ANSI/ANS 58.9-1987) – August 14, 2002.
- ANSI/ASTM D1129-2002, Terminology Relating to Water (revision of ANSI/ASTM D1129-2002) – July 10, 2002.
- ANSI/ASTM D2272-2002, *Test Method for Oxidation Stability of Steam Turbine Oils by Rotating Pressure Vessel* (revision of ANSI/ASTM D2272-1999) – August 10, 2002.
- ANSI/ASTM D3645-2002, *Test Methods for Beryllium in Water* (revision of ANSI/ASTM D3645-1997) – July 10, 2002.
- ANSI/ASTM D4107-2001 (R2002), *Test Method for Tritium in Drinking Water* (reaffirmation of ANSI/ASTM D4107-2001) – July 10, 2002.
- ANSI/ASTM D6239-2002, Test Method for Uranium in Drinking Water by High-Resolution Alpha-Liquid-Scintillation Spectrometry (revision of ANSI/ASTM D6239-2001) – August 10, 2002.
- ANSI/ASTM E1368-2002, Practice for Visual Inspection of Asbestos Abatement Projects (revision of ANSI/ASTM E1368-2000) – July 10, 2002.
- ANSI/ASTM E2230-2002, *Practice for Thermal Qualification of Type B Packages for Radioactive Material* (new standard) – August 10, 2002.
- ANSII/IEEE 308-2001, *Standard Criteria for Class IE Power Systems for Nuclear Power Generating Stations* (revision of ANSI/IEEE 308-1992) – August 1, 2002.
- ANSI/IEEE 367-1996 (R2002), *Recommended Practice for Determining the Electric Power Station Ground Potential Rise and Induced Voltage from a Power Fault* (reaffirmation of ANSI/IEEE 367-1996) – August 1, 2002.
- ANSI/IEEE 762-2002, *Definitions for Use in Reporting Electric Generating Unit Reliability, Availability, and Productivity* (new standard) – August 1, 2002.

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- ANSI/IEEE/ASTM SI 10-2002, *American National Standard for Use of the International System of Units (SI): The Modern Metric System* (revision of ANSI/IEEE/ASTM SI 10-1997) – July 26, 2002.
- ANSI/NFPA 54-2002, *National Fuel Gas Code* (same as ANSI Z223.1) (revision of ANSI/NFPA 54-1999) – August 8, 2002.
- ANSI/NFPA 69-2002, *Standard on Explosion Prevention Systems* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 69-1997) – August 8, 2002.
- ANSI/NFPA 72-2002, *National Fire Alarm Code* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 72-1999) – August 8, 2002.
- ANSI/NFPA 170-2002, *Standard for Fire Safety Symbols* (revision of ANSI/NFPA 170-1999) – August 8, 2002.
- ANSI/NFPA 1144-2002, *Standard for Protection of Life and Property from Wildfire* (revision and redesignation of ANSI/NFPA 299-1997) – August 8, 2002.
- ANSI/NFPA 5000-2002, *NFPA Building Code* (new standard) – August 8, 2002.

The following international standards are currently in coordination (comment due dates follow each entry)**:**

- 1/1881/FDIS, 60050-393, Ed. 2: *Nuclear instrumentation – Physical phenomena and basic concepts*, October 18, 2002.
- ISO/DIS 15296, *Gas welding equipment – Terminology – Terms used for gas welding equipment* – November 16, 2002.

American National Standards Projects Initiated

The following is a list of proposed new American National Standards or revisions to existing American National Standards submitted to ANSI by accredited standards developers. DOE employees or contractors interested in participating in these activities should contact the appropriate standards developing organization. DOE-TSL-4 lists the DOE representatives on NGS committees. If no DOE representative is listed, contact the TSPO for information on participating in NGS activities.

American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)
Office: 2700 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 250
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
Fax: 703-207-8558
Contact: Kris Heinbaugh, **kheinbaugh@aiha.org**

- Z88.2-200x, *Practices for Respiratory Protection* (new standard).

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)
Office: 445 Hoes Lane, P.O. Box 1331
Piscataway, New Jersey 08855-1331
Fax: 732-562-1571
Contact: Susan Vogel, **s.vogel@ieee.org**

- N42.18-200x, *On-Site Instrumentation for Continuously Monitoring Radioactivity in Effluents, Specification and Performance of* (new standard).
- N42.20-200x, *Performance Criteria for Active Personnel Radiation Monitors* (revision of ANSI N42.20-1995).
- N42.20-1995, *Performance Criteria for Active Personnel Radiation Monitors* (reaffirmation of ANSI N42.20-1995).

Office: 100 Bureau Drive
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-8460
Fax: 301-216-2075
Contact: Louis Costrell

- N42.2-200x, *High Voltage Connectors for Nuclear Instruments* (new standard).
- N42.31-200x, *Measurement Procedures for Resolution and Efficiency of Wide-Bandgap Semiconductor detectors of Ionizing Radiation* (new standard).
- N544-200x, Signal *Connectors for Nuclear Instruments* (new standard).

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL)
Office: 333 Pfingsten Road
Northbrook, Illinois 60062-2096
Fax: 847-313-2850
Contact: Mitchell Gold, **Mitchell.Gold@us.ul.com**

- UL 60974-1-200x, *Arc Welding Equipment; Part 1: Welding Power Sources* (new standard).

American Society for Testing and Materials

Standards activities of the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) are published monthly in ASTM *Standardization News.* Orders for subscriptions or single copies of ASTM *Standardization News* may be submitted to ASTM, Subscription Dept.-SN, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428-2959. For information regarding ASTM membership, contact the Membership Services Department at 610-832-9691 (Fax 610-832-9667). ASTM publications may be ordered from the ASTM Customer Services Department at 610-832-9585 (Fax 610-832-9555). Comments on listed draft standards may be submitted by contacting the ASTM Standards Coordination Department at the above address. Questions may be addressed to the Technical Committee Operations Division at 610-832-9672 (Fax 610-832-9666). Additional information on ASTM

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activities is available on the ASTM Web site (**http://www.astm.org**). The following listings are extracted from ASTM *Standardization News* and are representative of NGS development activities that may be relevant to DOE operations.

The following ASTM standards are currently in coordination (the due date for all items is September 10, 2002):

- A 20/A 20M-01b, *Specification for General Requirements for Steel Plates for Pressure Vessels* – revised standard.
- A 240/A 240M-02, *Specification for Chromium and Chromium-nickel Stainless Steel Plate, Sheet, and Strip for Pressure Vessels and for General Applications* – revised standard.
- A 299/A 299M-01, *Specification for Pressure Vessel Plates, Carbon Steel, Manganese-silicon* – revised standard.
- A 372/A 372M-99, *Specification for Carbon and Alloy Steel Forgings for Thin-walled Pressure Vessels* – revised standard.
- A 479/A 479M-02, *Specification for Stainless Steel Bars and Shapes for Use in Boilers and Other Pressure Vessels* – revised standard.
- D 5425-00, *Guide for Development of Fire Hazard Assessment Standards of Electrotechnical Products* – revised standard.
- E 1232-91(1996), *Test Method for Temperature Limit of Flammability of Chemicals* – revised standard.
- F 1248-96, *Test Method for Determination of Environmental Stress Crack Resistance (escr) of Polyethylene Pipe* – revised standard.

The following newly published standards are available from ASTM:

- D 3972-02, *Test Method for Isotopic Uranium in Water by Radiochemistry* – revised standard.
- D 5195-02, *Test Method for Density of Soil and Rock In-Place at Depths Below the Surface by Nuclear Methods* – revised standard.
- D 5792-02, *Practice for Generation of Environmental Data Related to Waste Management Activities: Development of Data Quality Objectives* – revised standard.

Comments, Questions, and Addresses

Comments: If you have any questions or comments, please contact Rick Serbu, EH-53, Manager, DOE Technical Standards Program Office (TSPO), 301-903-2856, Fax 301-903-6172, **Richard.Serbu@eh.doe.gov**.

Addresses: *Standards Actions* and *The Standards Forum* are electronic newsletters available on the TSP Web Site (**http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/**). To update your mailing and e-mail addresses, please contact Amy Bush, ORNL, 865-576-2395, Fax 865-574-8481, **bushar@ornl.gov**.

Technical Standards Activities: The TSPO would like to be kept informed of the status of technical standards that are being prepared or coordinated for DOE. Please provide this information to the TSPO at 865-576-2395, **bushar@ornl.gov**.

Topical Committee Developments

William S. Harker, Chair of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) Welding Committee at DOE-Idaho, recently reviewed and found the draft text of a Welding Topical Committee Charter acceptable. In the meantime, Bud Danielson, Quality and Safety Management (QSM) Special Interest Group (SIG) Topical Committee Chairman, has offered to provide and advertise a special session during the 2003 Quality Workshop where welding professionals can assemble to discuss formation of a possible Welding Topical Committee. The Workshop will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, on December 2–6, 2002. An e-mail invitation has been sent to a roster of potential participants in the welding community. The DOE Technical Standards Program (TSP) will do its best to provide meeting facilitation. Mr. Harker believes that there is a viable need in DOE for a Welding Topical Committee, that its formation can be accomplished with very little cost, and that "much good can be accomplished." The TSP encourages the formation of this topical committee and expects major benefits from the organization of and interaction among the welding subject matter experts (SMEs).

The Chemical Safety Topical Committee (CSTC) and the Headquarters Office of Worker Protection Policy and Programs (EH-52) has completed and released for comment Project No. SAFT-0085, "Integration of Multiple Hazard Analysis Requirements and Activities." This document effectively integrates multiple approaches and documentation for various hazard analysis requirements and methodologies. Using these approaches should reduce time and costs of sites in duplicating efforts and documentation, including recreating data that already exists provided by other means of analysis. The draft of the document may be found at **http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/standard/appframe.html**.

Volume 2 of the *Chemical Management* handbook (DOE-HDBK-1139/2-2002) is now available on the TSP Web site. This handbook was developed by a joint Energy Facility Contractors Group (EFCOG)/Chemical Safety Topical Committee working group to assist the field in understanding how various sites undertake chemical management activities. To view the handbook, go to **http://tis.eh.doe.gov/techstds/standard/hdbk1139/hdbk11392002vol2.pdf**.

To enhance coordination among DOE's nuclear safety experts, the TSP continues to look for groups of nuclear safety SMEs to form topical committees that are counterparts to American Nuclear Society (ANS) subcommittees, in particular. Are you a member of a working group or technical group especially dealing with aspects of nuclear safety that would like to be recognized across the DOE complex? Would you like the opportunity to share ideas with like-minded scientists and engineers in the Department in a time of scarce resources and be more involved in standards work? If you are part of a group of SMEs that would like to affiliate with the TSP as a topical committee, contact M. Norman Schwartz (301-903-2996, **Norm.Schwartz@eh.doe.gov**) or Richard Serbu (301-903-2856, **Richard.Serbu@eh.doe.gov**).

2002 ANSI Annual Conference to Focus on Standards and Conformity Assessment as Key Issues Affecting Global Business and Trade

The 2002 American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Annual Conference, "Breaking Down Borders: Business, Standards and Trade," will be held in Washington, D.C. on October 15–16, 2002. The conference, held in conjunction with World Standards Week 2002, will explore key standards and conformity assessment issues affecting global commerce and trade. The various panels and sessions will provide a forum to dialogue with leading industry, government, and academic experts on important topics as the global relevancy of regulations and standards; international competition and barriers to trade; the challenges and benefits of conformity assessment; strategic integration of standards into business; working with government in outreach to developing countries; determining international professional equivalency; and integration of standards into higher education. Take a look at the conference agenda on ANSI's Web site at **http://www.ansi.org/rooms/room_5/public/Ann_Conf02.htm**.

The World of Standards—

NEWS BRIEFS

ANSI Working Groups Looking for Additional Members

Three of the working groups of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committee N43, *Equipment for Non-Medical Radiation Applications*, are looking for additional members. In particular, they would like to have some Department of Energy representation. Accordingly, if you are interested and available to participate on one of the following working groups, send your resume to **Peter.O'Connell@eh.doe.gov**. Mr. O'Connell will forward your resume and request to the appropriate working group chairperson for consideration.

- N43.3: *General Radiation Safety Standard for Installations Using Non-Medical X-Ray and Sealed Gamma Ray Sources, Energies up to 10 MeV*
- N43.7: *Safe Design and Use of Self-Contained, Dry Source Storage Gamma Irradiators (Category 1)*
- N43.9: *Radiological Safety for the Design and Construction of Apparatus for Gamma Radiography*

ANSI Sponsors Panel Discussion Series on Establishing Standards Programs in University Curricula

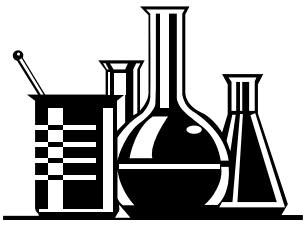
The American National Standards Institute (ANSI), working in conjunction with the University of Colorado's International Center for Standards Research (ICSR), has created a series of panel discussions that will provide academic, industry, and government representatives with a forum to build an agenda on how to introduce standards into the higher learning curricula. The objective of this effort is to increase awareness at the university level of the importance of the role of standards and to prepare graduates to serve as professionals with a good understanding of standards.

The first panel discussion, "The Advancement of Standards Education and Research at the University Level," will be co-hosted by ICSR and the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information (CITI) and sponsored by ANSI on September 9, 2002 at Columbia University in New York City.

Some of the key topics to be discussed include such issues as integrating standards subjects into non-standards courses, determining which schools and curricula are appropriate, emphasizing the importance of strategic standardization management, and determining which topics should be the focus of academic research. Experts from various industries with a broad scope of diverse interests will serve on the panel. The primary goal of the panel discussion will be to increase the awareness of the importance of standards.

Further discussion on this issue has been planned for ANSI's Annual Conference, "Breaking Down Borders—Business, Standards and Trade," on October 15–16, 2002, in Washington, D.C. The session, "University Education Outreach Forum: Developing a Standards Agenda for Change," will build upon the ideas developed at the initial panel discussion.

ICSR is currently looking for additional sponsors as well as industry participation. For more information, contact Pamela Suett, ANSI's director of Education and Training at 212-642-4976 or **psuett@ansi.org**.



NIST Leads Effort to Standardize Chemical ID Systems

Traditionally, chemicals have been identified using a variety of systems and names, causing confusion when trying to link, label and search for chemical substances across Web sites, databases, journals and other computerized resources. In an international effort led by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), chemists are developing a standard chemical identifier system to give unique identification tags to chemicals. The project is being carried out under the auspices of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).

The IUPAC chemical identifier, also known as IChI, is based on computer algorithms that transform molecular structures into numbers for each atom, and then into strings of characters. The goal of the IChI project is to develop a system that is the most "natural" and beneficial for chemists with the hope that it will become the first widely accepted identification method.

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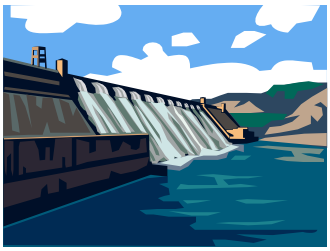
Test versions of the system for organic molecules have been released. A final version, which will be accessible to anyone at no cost, is expected to be released in 2003. Later, algorithms will be developed for polymers and inorganic compounds. Researchers expect IChI to be added to existing and new software packages used to draw chemical structures.

For more information, contact Stephen Stein, (301) 975-2505, **stephen.stein@nist.gov**.



IEC Introduces "Renewable and Alternative Energies Zone" to Its Web Site

In response to ever-increasing concern for the environment and heightened worldwide interest in alternative sources of energy, the International Electrotechnical Committee (IEC) has recently added the "Renewable and Alternative Energies Zone" to its Web site. Knowledge and technology in the area of standards in the alternative energy production field is continually growing and improving. IEC's "Renewable and Alternative Energies Zone" provides information on the organization's work in renewable alternative energies with sections devoted to water, solar, fuel cell and wind energy production. A description of each energy source as well as information about the IEC Technical Committee (TC) devoted to standardization in that area and short summaries of the TC's present and future projects is also included. In addition, the IEC Zone provides listings of the IEC standards that are currently available related to each energy source and those that are under development. For more information, visit the IEC Zone at **http://www.iec.ch/zone/renergy/renergy_entry.htm.**

New Standard Approved for Risk Assessment in Commercial Nuclear Power Plants

In response to increased news media attention and public concerns with nuclear radiation and the safety of nuclear power plants; the American Society for Mechanical Engineers (ASME), in collaboration with the American Nuclear Society (ANS), has recently approved a new standard, ANSI/ASME RA-S-2002, *Probabilistic Risk Assessment for Nuclear Power Plant Applications*. This new standard sets forth requirements for risk assessment in commercial nuclear power plants and provides a method for applying the requirement for specific applications. The standard uses risk assessment decision-making in order to deal with the design, licensing, procurement, construction, operation, and maintenance of the power plant. In addition, the standard requires and establishes analysis of the internal events of the plant while it is in operation. The standard is available from ASME at **http://www.asme.org/catalog/**.

NACLA Formally Recognizes AIHA as Laboratory Accreditation Body

The National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) has granted the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) formal recognition as a competent laboratory accreditation body (AB). AIHA operates accreditation programs for laboratories that offer testing services in three areas: industrial hygiene, environmental lead, and environmental microbiology.

NACLA is a voluntary partnership between the public and private sectors formed for the purpose of coordinating laboratory accreditation activities in the United States. It assists U.S. ABs in gaining both national and international acceptance. AIHA is the fourth AB to be recognized by NACLA. The other three are the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP), and the International Council of Building Officials Evaluation Services (ICBO ES). A number of other ABs have applied to NACLA for recognition and are in the process of being evaluated by NACLA teams.

The basis for NACLA recognition is a three-step process: careful review of the ABs documents and procedures; a thorough on-site evaluation by a team of NACLA experts to determine the AB's compliance with NACLA recognition procedures and the international standard for ABs (ISO/IEC Guide 58); and review of the evaluation team's report and recommendation by representatives of peer ABs and interested members of NACLA's Acceptance Panel.

Information about NACLA is available on the NACLA Web site, **http://www.nacla.net/**.

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Defense Standardization Program Celebrates 50th Anniversary

The Defense Standardization Program (DSP) celebrated its Golden Anniversary on July 1, 2002, fifty years after the U.S. Congress passed the *Defense Cataloging and Standardization Act* (Public Law 436), establishing a single, unified standardization program within the Department of Defense (DoD). The DSP was initially charged with increasing interoperability through the development and use of a single set of specifications that would reduce overlap and duplication, and this continues to be its primary mission.

For fifty years, the DSP has represented a valuable public-/private-sector partnership that has strengthened over time. Since the DSP's creation in 1952, the DoD has taken a lead role among Federal agencies in its efforts to partner with the private sector, both domestically and internationally. The DSP's cooperation with the voluntary consensus standards community around the world has helped to ensure the interoperability of products, systems, and personnel. The DSP has fully supported the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act and has aggressively implemented MilSpec Reform. As a result, nearly 3,500 military specifications have been converted to voluntary consensus standards in the last eight years.

In the Golden Anniversary issue of the *DSP Journal,* DSP director Gregory Saunders reflects on the benefits of standardization that have contributed to operational effectiveness, reduced costs, improved logistics support, and increased reliability for the nation's armed forces. You can read more about the DSP's 50th Anniversary Celebration on the DSP Web site **http://www.dsp.dla.mil/**.

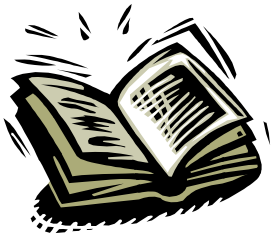
NNSA Launches Lessons Learned Portal

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) has launched a lessons learned portal on its Web site. The NNSA Lessons Learned (LL) Portal is a Web-based tool designed to facilitate the sharing of information in a consistent and timely manner among headquarters elements and contractor and subcontractor entities. The NNSA LL application will provide a mechanism for communicating experiences throughout management and across functional areas. The sharing of LL can potentially reduce risk, improve efficiency, and enhance the cost effectiveness of NNSA processes and operations.

The NNSA LL Portal uses an integrated, user-friendly, Web-enabled PC browser interface capable of generating topical LL extracted from the NNSA LL database and external sites such as the Society for Effective Lessons Learned Sharing (SELLS) and the Government-Industry Data Exchange Program (GIDEP) database. The user can establish user profiles that provide for customized output of LL reports. The data in NNSA LL is updated daily and compiled after subject matter expert review of Lessons Learned Reports submitted from across the NNSA complex.

The new NNSA Lessons Learned Portal is available on **http://lessons-learned.net/**.

ANSI Publishes Revision to Its *Guide for U.S. Delegates to the IEC and ISO*



The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has published the second edition of its *Guide for U.S. Delegates to Meetings of the IEC and the ISO*. ANSI is the national member body to the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), via the U.S. National Committee, and to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

It is important to the success of U.S. standards developers that U.S. delegates to the IEC and the ISO effectively represent the U.S. in the international standards arena. U.S. delegates play a key role in advocating national positions and policies. The revised guide will help to ensure that delegates know and understand the rules governing standards development in the IEC and the ISO.

The revisions to the *Guide for Delegates* bring the document up to date with current processes and procedures, both those of ANSI and of the IEC and ISO. The changes made reflect the 2001 revision of the IEC/ISO Directives and provide updated statistics that are useful in understanding international positions. The guide also provides information on

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the role delegates play in implementing the U.S. National Standards Strategy, which calls for all organizations and individuals working in IEC and ISO to strive to achieve the best standards to support trade and commerce while protecting health, safety, and the environment.

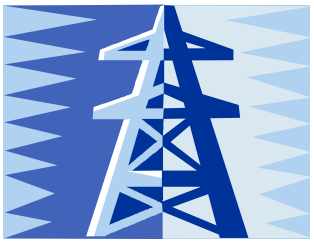
To emphasize the importance of cooperation and collaboration in achieving U.S. goals, the revised *Guide for Delegates* has significantly expanded its coverage of issues addressing effective negotiation skills and interaction with other delegates as members of a global work team.

You can view the *Guide for U.S. Delegates to Meetings of the IEC and the ISO* online at **http://www.ansi.org/public/Guide_Delegates02.pdf**.

ASME Announces Standards Technology Institute

ASME International (American Society of Mechanical Engineers) has announced the formation of the ASME Standards Technology Institute (STI). The new Institute, operating under the auspices of the Society's Council on Codes and Standards, was established to assist ASME codes and standards committees in the development, dissemination, and maintenance of technically relevant codes and standards. It will offer research and technical support throughout the entire developmental phase of the standards process. STI will also identify opportunities for partnering and establishing joint arrangements with technical organizations around the world. For more information on STI, contact Mel Torre, (212) 591-8157, **torrem@asme.org**.

New IEEE Standard to Provide Guidelines for Distributed Resources Linked with Power Systems



The Standards Board of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standards Association (IEEE-SA) has approved the start of work on a new standard, IEEE P1614, *Guide for Monitoring, Information Exchange and Control of Distributed Resources Interconnected with Electric Power Systems*. The new standard will provide guidelines for the monitoring, control, and exchange of information with distributed resources (such as fuel cells, photovoltaics, wind turbines, and microturbines) that than be interconnected with or associated with electric power systems. The IEEE Power Engineering Society is sponsoring IEEE P1614. For more information, visit their Web site at **http://www.ieee.org/organizations/society/power/**, or the IEEE-SA Web site at **http://standards.ieee.org/**.

ASSE Urges Voluntary Consensus Process in Establishing Hazardous Substance Exposure Limits for Workers

To help save lives and prevent illnesses in the workplace, the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) has repeated its call for the establishment of a consensus process for updating Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs). In comments sent to Rep. Charles Norwood (R-GA), Chair of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protection of the House Committee on Education and Workforce, concerning the Subcommittee's July 16 hearing on PELs for employees, ASSE stated that enough credible scientific information exists to begin building consensus toward improving some current PELs and developing PELs for new chemicals.

PELs are set by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to protect workers against the health effects of exposure to hazardous substances. They are enforceable limits that proscribe to the amount or concentration of hazardous substance in the air to which workers may be exposed.

ASSE has urged the Federal safety agencies and Congress to consider establishing a voluntary consensus process to help update PELs. According to ASSE President Mark Hansen, P.E., C.S.P., “the current standards are grossly outdated for many of the covered toxic substances in light of the epidemiological evidence compiled over the past 30 years. Some existing OSHA PELs have not been revised since 1971, and some MSHA PELs were set in 1972 for coalmines and in 1973 for metal and nonmetal mines. Some of the substances these PELs address have since been designated as human carcinogens, yet the PELs meant to protect workers from such substances remain at levels injurious to human health."

For a complete copy of ASSE's comments on PELs, check its Web site at **http://www.asse.org** under Government Affairs.

Upcoming Meetings and Conferences of Interest (September–November 2002)

September 8–10

National Conference on Environmental Science and Technology

Grandover Resort—Greensboro, North Carolina

Visit **http://www.ncat.edu/~wmi/conference/conf.html** for more information.

September 17–20

Fifth Topical Meeting on Spent Nuclear Fuel and Fissile Materials

Francis Marion Hotel/Lightsey Conference Center—Charleston, South Carolina

Sponsored by the Savannah River Section of the American Nuclear Society.

Visit **http://ans.snffmm.org/** for more information.

September 22–24

Fourth International Conference on the Health Effects of Low-Level Radiation

Keble College—Oxford, England

Contact Sue Frye, **sue.frye@ice.org.uk**, for more information.

September 29–October 4

NEI International Uranium Fuel Seminar

Grove Park Inn—Asheville, North Carolina

Visit **http://www-ners.engin.umich.edu/PSAConf/** for more information.

October 6–10

Probabilistic Safety Assessment

Hotel Pontchartrain—Detroit, Michigan

Sponsored by the Nuclear Energy Institute.

Visit **http://www.nei.org** for more information.

October 15–16

Breaking Down Borders—Business, Standards and Trade—ANSI Annual Conference (held in conjunction with World Standards Week 2002)

Marriott at Metro Center—Washington, D.C.

Visit **http://www.ansi.org/rooms/room_5/public/Ann_Conf02.htm** for more information.

October 16–18

The Americas Nuclear Energy Symposium (ANES 2002)

The Conference Center of the Americas, The Biltmore Hotel—Miami, Florida

Visit **http://www.anes2002.org** for more information.

November 3–8

American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) 2002 Annual Meeting

Indianapolis Convention Center—Indianapolis, Indiana

Visit **http://www.aiche.org/annual/** for more information.

November 5–7

EFCOG/DOE Chemical Management 2002 Workshop

DOE Forrestal Building—Washington, D.C.

Theme: "Chemical Management and Homeland Security: Examining and Reducing our Vulnerabilities"

Contact Gail Kleiner, **Gail.Kleiner@eh.doe.gov**, for more information.

November 11–15

48th Annual Radiobioassay and Radiochemical Measurements Conference

Marriott Hotel—Knoxville, Tennessee

Visit **http://www.bioassay.org/2002/** for more information.

November 12–14

Fourteenth Technical Information Exchange (TIE) Workshop

Oakland Marriott City Center Hotel—Oakland, California

Visit **http://www.em.doe.gov/tie/14tie.html** for more information, or contact Mary McCune at 301-903-8152.

November 17–21

ANS 2002 Winter Meeting—Building the World Nuclear Community—Strategies for the Deployment of New Nuclear Technologies

OMNI Shoreham Hotel—Washington, D.C.

Visit **http://www.ans.org/meetings/winter/** for more information.

November 17–22

2002 ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress

New Orleans Hilton/Ernest Morial Convention Center—New Orleans, Louisiana

Visit **http://www.asme.org/congress/index.htm** for more information.